

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action that issued July 18, 2001. In light of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and removal of the grounds for rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 are pending in this Patent Application. Claims 19 and 20 are added by this amendment. Claims 1, 7, 12, 19, and 20 are independent claims.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,049,823 to Hwang ("Hwang") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,903,878 to Talati ("Talati").

It has been the applicants position from the beginning that Hwang shows an interactive television system that can provide video-on-demand services, shopping, and games on a "private viewing channel" as well as on a "group viewing channel" (see, Col. 1, lines 58-61). In this way, a user may interact with a number of group-based games and services.

Claim 1 is amended here to clarify that the "processor [is] configured to provide query information requesting information identifying at least one of content and channel currently watched on the other television and configured to automatically provide queried information identifying at least one of content and channel currently watched at said television in response to

a query request from the other television." In this amendment, it should be clear that Claim 1 does not read on Hwang.

Talati shows a system for validating electronic commerce transactions between one or more originators, recipients, and transaction administrators. The term "originator" is defined to be synonymous with client, purchaser, user, requestor, or account holder. The term "recipient" is defined to be synonymous with merchant, service provider, vendor, and payee. The term transaction administrator is defined synonymous with credit card authority, government authority, financial network, or banking system. It should be clear from the above cast of characters that the elements of Claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested by Talati alone, or in any combination with Hwang.

Accordingly, Claim 1 is patentable over Hwang in view of Talati and an indication to that effect is respectfully requested. Claims 7 and 12 are respectively, a system and method requiring similar elements as Claim 1 and are therefore also allowable and an indication to that effect is respectfully requested.

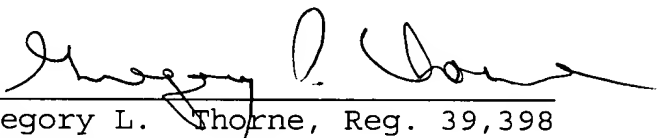
In addition, Claims 2-6, 8-11, and 13-18 respectively depend from one of Claims 1, 7, and 12 and therefore are also patentable for at least this reason as well as for the individual elements found in each of the claims. For all of the above reasons, Claims 2-6, 8-11, and 13-18 and 18 are also

patentable over Hwang in view of Talati. Accordingly, allowance of Claims 2-6, 8-11 and 13-18 is also respectfully requested.

Further, new Claims 19 and 20 essentially require the elements of originally submitted Claims 1 and 7, respectively, and are allowable for the same reasons as Claims 1 and 7. Further, new Claims 19 and 20 require a peer-to-peer connection. Accordingly, new Claims 19 and 20 are allowable over Hwang in view of Talati for this additional reason.

A sincere effort has been made to place the application in suitable condition for allowance and notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

1. (Twice amended) A television comprising:

a connection configured to be operatively coupled to a connection of an other television; and

a processor configured to ~~automatically~~ provide query information requesting information identifying at least one of content and channel currently watched on ~~to~~ the other television and configured to automatically provide queried information identifying at least one of content and channel currently watched at said television in response to a query request from the other television.

3. (Amended) The television of Claim 1, wherein said processor is configured to receive query compliance status information identifying if said television is setup to share queried information with ~~the query compliance status of the~~ other television.

7. (Twice amended) A communication system comprising a plurality of televisions interconnected together, wherein said televisions are configured to ~~automatically~~ provide query information requesting information identifying at least one of content and channel currently watched on ~~to others~~ at least one other of said plurality of televisions and are configured to

automatically provide queried information identifying at least one of content and channel currently watched in response to a query request from said others of said plurality of televisions.

8. (Amended) The communication system of Claim 7, wherein each of said plurality of televisions is configured to receive query compliance status information identifying if said each of said plurality of television is setup to share queried information with the query compliance status of each other of said plurality of televisions.

12. (Twice amended) A method of providing communications between a plurality of televisions, said method comprising:

a. sending a query request from any of said plurality of televisions to any other of said plurality of televisions requesting information identifying at least one of content and channel currently watched, and

c. sending queried information identifying at least one of content and channel currently watched from said any other of said plurality of televisions to said any of said plurality of televisions that sent the query request automatically in response to said query request.

14. (Amended) The method of Claim 13, wherein said identifying comprises identifying a query compliance status between each of said plurality of televisions identifying if each of said plurality of television is setup to share queried information with each other of said plurality of televisions.

16. (Amended) The method of Claim 12, comprising confirming a query compliance status of said any of said plurality of televisions that sent the query request prior to performing act b and not sending queried information if said query violates said query compliance status, wherein said query compliance status information identifies if said any other of said televisions is setup to share queried information with said any of said plurality of televisions.